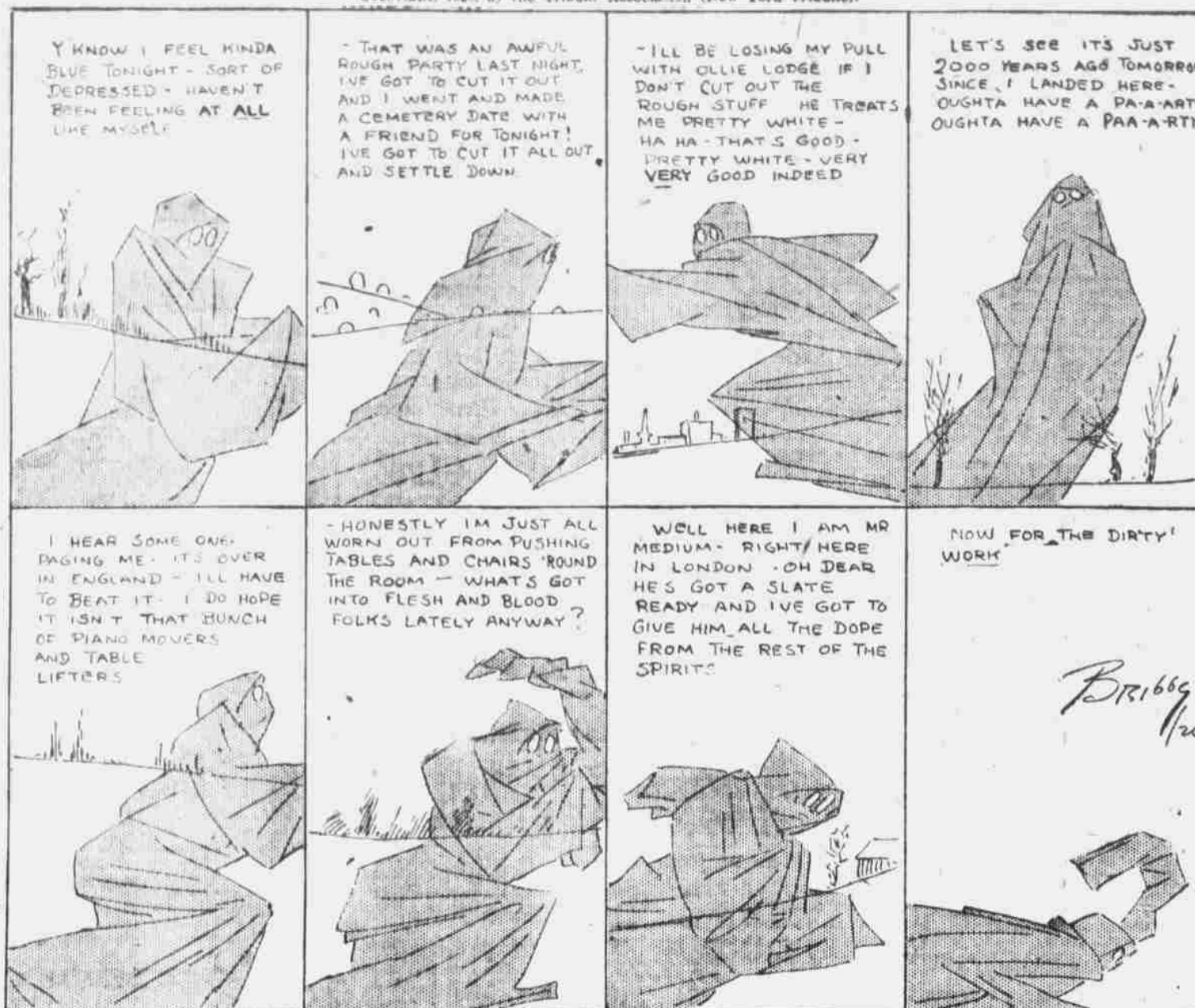


## Wonder What a Ghost Thinks About—By Briggs

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## The News-Scimitar

PUBLISHED BY THE MEMPHIS NEWS SCIMITAR COMPANY

Entered as Second-Class Matter at the Postoffice at Memphis, Tenn., Under the Act of March 3, 1879.

## DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

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## THE REAL REASON

When President Wilson said to Mr. Lansing, "if you would give your present office up and afford me an opportunity to select someone whose mind would more willingly go along with mine," he stated the proposition clearly, and it is only unfortunate that he should have felt impelled to seek further for excuses with which to conceal the real purpose in requesting his resignation.

Not only Mr. Lansing, but Secretary Lane made it clear that the cabinet conferences were called with the agreement of all members of the cabinet, and that responsibility rests equally upon the entire cabinet. It is somewhat remarkable that Secretary Lane should be the only other member to acknowledge his share of culpability.

The reason is that the meeting of the departmental heads, which, we have been assured, was with the knowledge of the president, and attended by his private secretary and personal physician, had but slight, if any, significance, and the real difference between the president and his secretary of state reached the breaking point before the close of the peace negotiations in Paris.

Mr. Lansing has labored under mental repression much longer than a man of his spirit should be expected to contain himself, and perhaps he would not have been able to bear up under the weight of embarrassment except for the consciousness that he was rendering a personal service, which, in the eyes of the public, would exceed the humiliation imposed upon him.

It was a fact remarked upon frequently by the correspondents and returning soldiers as well that Mr. Lansing had no standing with the American delegation that in any way corresponded with his official position, or with the position occupied by the prime ministers of other countries who were delegates to the conference. The reason, apparently, was that Mr. Lansing's mind was not so pliant as to "go along willingly with mine."

Obviously the president does not desire an adviser in the cabinet. As at present constituted he has none. He violated most of the traditions of the government by making his closest confidant an individual in no wise connected with the administration in an official capacity. Col. House retained his place "in the sun" until he felt that usage and familiarity entitled him to advise the president, and immediately after he discontinued being a silent messenger and became ambitious to be a spokesman for the chief executive he lost prestige and position, and he no longer has the entree, such as he enjoyed when he was content to take orders.

We are confident that this episode is more far-reaching than appears upon the surface. Clearly the president has a right to dismiss a member of his cabinet, but a member of the president's cabinet is entitled to a fair statement of the causes leading up to his discharge. It bids fair to become a mooted question that will not down among the Democrats, where sympathy will be divided, and the Republicans, who are in entire sympathy with Mr. Lansing, may be counted upon to make the most of it.

We are of the opinion that the president might have profitably consulted Mr. Lansing. He might consult members of the congress and even private citizens with information upon puzzling questions and be none the worse off. Mr. Wilson's unfortunate disposition to brook no opposition; to take no thought of those with contrary opinion; and to stigmatize his personal friends who occasionally are compelled to differ from him on public issues does no credit to his acknowledged ability.

## WHY NOT HUGHES?

In suggesting that the Republican party owes the presidential nomination to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Taft came very nearly stating a political truth—if it were customary for politicians to keep a set of books in which to enter their obligations.

Mr. Hughes presents one of the tragic figures in American politics. He was an able judge, content with his place as associate justice of the supreme court of the United States—a job good for a lifetime of good behavior and paying a living salary. He made not the slightest effort to secure the nomination, even going so far as to refuse to say if he would accept the nomination if it were tendered to him.

Yet the nomination went to him, almost as though it had been decreed by the fates that he was to be the next president, practically without a contest. Mr. Hughes looked like a sure winner. Then when he appeared too aggressive the foreign element fell away from him, labor threw its strength to Wilson and capital, reveling in the misfortunes of Europe and unawakened to the even greater field of operation and opportunity for profiteering with the United States in war, wanted no war while business was good and we were selling wares at prices unprecedented up to that time.

Still Mr. Hughes was the favorite. The great New York papers that consult the returns in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana, announce the result for the nation and go to press, declared Mr. Hughes elected, and there was a bonching little family celebration.

Then as in the case of Tilden the opposition held out, it began to struggle and then to fight, and finally California, because Mr. Hughes failed to greet Senator Hiram Johnson when the two met in a San Francisco hotel, went to the Democratic column, gave Johnson a majority of 400,000 in behalf of the Republicans, and Wilson was elected.

So far as we have heard Mr. Taft is the first to suggest Mr. Hughes for the nomination this year. Certainly he would have a stronger appeal to the voters of his own party, and there is reason to believe that for sentimental reasons he would be stronger than he was four years ago.

Unfortunately Mr. Taft is a voice crying in the wilderness, and a small voice at that, so far as the Republicans are concerned. Except for his connection with the highly commendable but wholly visionary organization known as the League to Enforce Peace, his willingness to ratify the league of nations covenant as Smuts wrote it, Mr. Taft might have better standing in his party—and his voice in behalf of Mr. Hughes might be compelling.

## Public Discussion

PRAYER AND DISEASE.

BY THE NEWS-SCIMITAR.

In The News-Scimitar of the 12th I

read that "E. C. A." thinks the church

should not be closed against the flu,

but should be opened for prayer. I

would not discredit the efficacy of

prayer, yet we notice the scripture

quoted by E. C. A. has reference to

fighting with as well as prayer. If

we violate the laws of nature as well

as the laws of God we will suffer the

penalty. If we should hold prayer

meeting being exposed to any disease,

we would be liable to take it. The

Lord of Hosts has given us a principle

of caution to shun the appearance of

disease.

In Prov. 15th chapter, we have this:

"He that turneth away his ear from

hearing the law, his prayer shall be an

abomination." Prayer is the greatest

privilege of God's people and it can be

made acceptable to God. When you pray

enter into the closet, and when you

have shut the door pray to the

Father in secret, and thy Father who

seeth in secret, shall reward thee

openly.

The prayer is all right if we are

not exposed to diseases which some

will argue the Lord will preserve you

from. If in the discharge of religious du-

ties, but I think exposing ourselves

to contagious diseases, and presuming

God will protect us is little less than

presumption. David said: "Keep thy

servant from presumptuous sin; and

do not let me be deceived by the word

and board of health." J. C. H.

Potts Camp, Minn.

"How do you get on?"

The sweet young maiden breathed

the words into her lover's many ears

as she sat him at the passage.

He had been "seeing father" and she

wanted to know the result.

"Oh, your father," heartily," I told

him I could not live without you,

and he said, "I'll be with you."

"What did he say?"

He merely offered to pay my fu-

tural expenses." J. C. H.

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## As a Woman Thinks

BY EDITH E. MORIARTY.

Since women have insisted upon

entering business, industry and politics,

and men have seen them outside the

home and the ballroom in the hard

work-a-day world, women have been

subjected to much harsh and often un-

derstand criticism. Their mistakes, which

are quite natural in novices in anything,

and women are surely novices in many

of the fields they are entering are often

held up as ineffectual, bad traits and

indebilities.

Women are accused daily of being

biological, inconsistent, funny, foolish,

extraneous, unbusiness-like, catty,

shallow, weak, inefficient, or else too

manly, or strong-minded. Men and

women of prominence and many in-

significant people are very busy telling

the world just now what is wrong with

the modern woman and particularly the

woman in business. All women are

more or less on their guard against

these attacks now and stand ready to

back their sex to the limit when these

critics strike.

Women will have to be careful or they

will begin to believe some of these

things which are said of them. That

some women are a calamity. And since

it has always been said that anyone

can succeed if only he has the alibi,

the fact of some one pointing out his

weaknesses is a help to him. He has

not only admitted fault, but a certain

recognition. These women who have

come out from the seclusion of the

home have not stepped down from their

pedestal according to this man. He is

a well-known business man in the

West and comes in contact with the

business woman daily. He pays a

tribute to the fair sex in these words:

"Surely, there is nothing on this earth

quite so interesting, so remarkable, so

sweet, so blooming, so faultless, so

strong as a beautiful woman."

There you are, women! Now you

may listen to the woman-haters with a

smile.

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Atlanta, Ga., is to have a factory for

the tubes, tire fabrics, etc., built by

a company which increases its capital

to \$2,000,000.

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## THE HASKIN LETTER

MECHANICAL SERVANTS

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 17.—

What are we going to do for servants?

People who complained about the

servant problem a few years ago now

realize that their troubles in that line

had only just begun. The cost of a

unit of human power is rising higher

every day. And it seems as though

human power applied to manual tasks

rises in price much faster than human

power applied to intellectual work. Ten

years ago in this country a college

professor might be able to hire a

college professor if she had any use

for him.

The game was in many other in-

stances that might be cited. The thing

can be stated briefly by saying that

wages are going up so much more rap-

idly than salaries that it is difficult

to find a man who can afford to hire

the wage-earning class. You have to be

a capitalist in order to be able to hire

anyone these days, and even some cap-

italists regard their pay rolls with grow-

ing aversion.

This is no doubt due in part to an

abnormal state of affairs, but there

does seem to be a tendency to equal-

ize the wages of the manual and the

intellectual classes. It is doing a

wrong which will be righted in

due course that a brick layer in this

country can make more than the

average professor of mathematics. The

professor has spent more money each

year in his training, his work requires

a higher grade of ability, and his res-

ponsibilities are greater. Also—and this

is perhaps the most important part—

he has a better chance of being a

millionaire than the brick layer. He

needs more to eat than the brick

layer, but he may well live more in

the way of books and opera tickets.

At any rate the Utopian socialists,

and other so-called dreamers and ideal-

ists, have always contended that the

wages of the manual and the intellec-

tual classes should be equalized, so that

we would all get about the same

pay envelope on Saturday night. It

is not something of the sort seems to

be happening. Of course, the rich

like the poor, are always with us, and

it does seem as if some movie stars,

prize fighters, and barefoot dancers are

earning a little more than their fair

share of the goods. But there is no

denying that for the great mass of us

who toil six days a week and draw

a pay envelope on Saturday night, the

content of that envelope is coming al-

ways to be more uniform in amount

than it was a few years ago. The

professional man observes, his chil-

dren used to give candy and apples to

the janitor's children, but these days

the janitor's children are giving candy

and apples to them.

Those who live in the pipe-dreams

always said: "If rewards become

approximately equal, who is going to do

the dirty work? Who is going to shovel

coal and wash dishes?" And that ques-

tion does seem to have been answered.

An answer, it is true, is no

answer. An answer, it is true, is no

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